

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL POSS DUPE

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71

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SCCT-01 ACDA-07 /065 W

----- 002359

R 270637Z APR 76

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3090

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0561

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IZ

SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON CURRENT TOPICS

IN MEETING WITH PRINCIPAL OFFICER ON APRIL 24, IBRAHIM AL-WALI,
FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS MADE
FOLLOWING POINTS:

A) IRAQ APPRECIATED IRAN'S PROMPT ASSISTANCE IN FIGHTING THE FIRE
IN THE NORTH ROMAILA OIL FIELD. HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THE FIRE
HAD BEEN CAUSED BY SABOTAGE.

B) SADDAM HUSSEIN HAD DECIDED TO RETURN TO BAGHDAD FROM JIDDA
AND CANCEL THE REST OF HIS GULF TRIP PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FROM
BAGHDAD. WALI CONCEDED THAT THERE "MAY HAVE BEEN" INTELLIGENCE
REPORTS ABOUT A POSSIBLE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT IN ONE OF THE
GULF STATES THAT HAD CAUSED HUSSEIN TO CANCEL THE GULF PORTION
OF HIS TRIP. IT WAS NO SECRET THAT HUSSEIN HAD ENEMIES.

C) WALI SAID THAT GOI AGREED WITH USG THAT LEBANON SHOULD NOT
BE PARTITIONED AND THAT LEBANESE SHOULD SOLVE THEIR OWN PROBLEMS

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WITHOUT OUTSIDE MILITARY INTERVENTION. IRAQ THOUGHT THAT SYRIAN
MILITARY INTERVENTION WAS UNHELPFUL AS IT TENDED TO FREEZE STATUS

QUO AND PREVENT LONG OVERDUE REFORMS OF LEBANON'S ARCHAIC POLITICAL
STRUCTURE WHICH WERE NEEDED TO ACHIEVE PERMANENT STABILITY. FOR
EXAMPLE, GOI DID NOT BELIEVE THAT A MODERN STATE SHOULD LAY
DOWN RELIGIOUS QUALIFICATIONS FOR SENIOR GOVERNMENTAL POSITIONS.
PRINCIPAL OFFICER REPLIED THAT USG BELIEVED THAT A RESOLUTION
OF THE PROBLEM REQUIRED SOME BALANCE OF CONFLICTING INTERESTS
AND THAT A SOLUTION THAT GAVE ONE SIDE ALL IT WANTED AND THE
OTHER NOTHING WAS CERTAIN TO BE UNSTABLE.
WILEY

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